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For Immediate Release

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WEST CHESTER BASED COMPANY CHARGED IN WORK VISA FRAUD

PHILADELPHIA - An information¹ was filed today against Michael T. Glah, Theresa M. Klish, Emily V. Ford, and Mary H. Gillin charging them in a conspiracy that fraudulently shuttled illegal workers through the immigration system to obtain temporary work visas. Defendant Michael Glah owned and operated International Personnel Resources, a West Chester, Pennsylvania-based company that recruited workers from outside the United States for client businesses and then helped secure the work visas for those workers. Joining in today's announcement of the charges were United States Attorney Michael L. Levy, Director of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security Jeffrey W. Culver, Acting Inspector General for the United States Department of Labor Daniel R. Petrole, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent-in-Charge John Kelleghan.

According to the information, between January 2003 and December 2008, IPR systematically applied for a greater number of temporary work visas than its client businesses needed. By inflating this number, IPR was able to create its own personal stockpile of approved visas (H-2B). But each visa must be assigned to a person identified on the visa petition. So the defendants, it is alleged, randomly selected names from a Mexico City phone book, fabricating personal information, such as dates of birth and addresses, for the fraudulent petitions they submitted. If the visa petitions of IPR's clients were rejected, or if IPR's clients otherwise needed additional workers, the workers that IPR's clients wanted would be substituted in for the fabricated placeholder named in the fraudulent petition.

To further perpetuate the scheme, the information alleges that IPR and its clients instructed illegal workers to return to their home country, which in most cases was Mexico. IPR then fraudulently obtained temporary work visas on behalf of those illegal workers, who were instructed to lie to State Department officials during visa interviews about whether they had ever previously been in the United States. To further the fraud, IPR chartered buses that brought those aliens from Mexico across the U.S. border and to West Chester, Pennsylvania, where they were picked up by their former employers and returned to the employment sites. Between February

¹An Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

2005 and June 2005, Glah brought approximately 433 illegal aliens to the United States in this manner.

“The defendants’ business plan was to do an end run around the system for the purpose of making a profit,” said Levy. “In the process, they cheated those who play by the rules and made it possible for businesses not only to keep illegal aliens on their payrolls, but also make those aliens seem legitimate.”

“Today’s charges end a complex scheme of greed in which these defendants submitted fraudulent labor documentation facilitating the illegal entry of hundreds of foreign workers into the country,” said Daniel R. Petrole. “The foreign labor certification programs are designed to ensure that the admission of foreign workers into the United States on a permanent or temporary basis will not adversely affect the job opportunities, wages, and working conditions of U.S. workers. My agency will continue working with our law enforcement partners to investigate and prevent fraud and abuse of DOL programs.”

“Today’s charges against the owner and operators of IPR send a strong message to those who would attempt to commit this type of crime, that: Diplomatic Security is resolutely committed to investigating allegations of passport and visa fraud,” said Jeffrey W. Culver. “DS will continue to aggressively protect our borders by safeguarding the integrity of our travel documents.”

To obtain a labor certification, an illegal alien’s prospective employer must file an Application for Alien Employment Certification, or Form ETA 750, with the U.S. Department of Labor. Once the Form ETA 750 was certified, the prospective employer then filed a Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker, known as a Form I-129, with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. According to the information, between 2003 and 2008, IPR submitted more than 1,600 false documents to the government. This false filing scheme, among other things, made work visas unavailable for real people and prevented United States businesses from being able to legitimately staff their companies through the visa program.

“Document and benefit fraud poses a significant vulnerability that must not go unchallenged,” said John P. Kelleghan. “Today’s announcement should send a clear message that ICE and its law enforcement partners will hold those individuals accountable for their actions by dismantling their criminal enterprises and seizing the ill gotten proceeds of their crimes.”

Each defendant is charged with conspiracy to commit visa fraud and visa fraud. Glah is charged with four additional counts of visa fraud, three counts of bringing illegal aliens into the United States, and one count of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud. Ford is additionally charged with one count of encouraging or inducing an alien to unlawfully enter the United States.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
Michael T. Glah	West Chester, PA	48
Theresa M. Klish	West Chester, PA	50
Emily V. Ford	West Chester, PA	29
Mary H. Gillin	Downingtown, PA	60

If convicted, Glah faces a maximum 95 years imprisonment, including a mandatory five year term of imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$2,500,000 fine, and a \$1,000 special assessment; Klish faces a maximum 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment; Ford faces a maximum 25 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$750,000 fine, and a \$300 special assessment; and Gillin faces a maximum 15 years imprisonment, a three year period of supervised release, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment.

The government is also seeking forfeiture in the amount of \$1,000,000.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General the U.S. Department of State and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kevin R. Brenner.

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